



15 Minutes of Fame

With Senior Airman Mia D. Delgado

She's wasting away again in GTMO-ville

Compiled by
Spc. Michelle M. Scsepko
The Wire

Q: So, Senior Airman Mia Delgado, do you think 15 minutes of fame is enough for you?

A: I think it might be a little too much.

Q: We'll start out easy, then. Where are you from?

A: I am from Orlando, Fla.

Q: How would you describe yourself?

A: I'm a fun-loving person. I love to joke around and laugh. I would describe myself as an all-around nice person.

Q: What do you do for fun here?

A: I like to hang out, go dancing, snorkeling, and do yoga.

Q: What kind of music do you like to dance to?

A: Any kind of music with a beat, but if I had to pick one, I'd pick techno.

Q: And if you had to pick a song to go on a GTMO soundtrack? What would it be and why?

A: "Margaritaville" because Jimmy Buffet rules, and it would put people in the right frame of mind for here: just kick back and have a good time.

Q: So do you enjoy the nightlife much?

A: If you can call it that, sure.

Q: What is the wildest, craziest or most bizarre thing you've seen or done since you've been here?

A: Well, I got a chance to go snorkeling for the first time and I saw a lot of cool things. I know that's not really wild or strange but



Senior Airman Mia Delgado, from J4, makes the Air Force look easy.

I thought it was pretty cool.

Q: Hmm. What was the biggest adjustment you had to make when you got down to GTMO?

A: The heat. No, the humidity.

Q: If you could design your own Battle Dress Uniform especially made for GTMO, what would it look like?

A: A short-sleeved shirt, pair of shorts and a tank top, forget these t-shirts.

Q: If you could talk to someone who was about to deploy to GTMO what would you tell them?

A: Bring your summer clothes and your snorkel gear. And if you're not over 21, have your orders changed.

Q: If you could change one rule or policy here what would

it be?

A: Actually, I think we've got it pretty good. There's no curfew, we can drink, and basically do what we want.

Q: Where do you live and how would you describe it?

A: I live in Windward Loop, with an awesome bunch of girls.

Q: What do you think of the 'hood as a whole?

A: Windward Loop should be called the Party Loop; you know there's always something going on over there.

Q: How did the move to FP Con Charlie Thursday and Friday level affect you and the party scene?

A: Well, obviously we had to lug around all our gear, and there was no drinking, so that was it for the party scene. But better safe than sorry.

Q: Where do you go to relax?

A: I go to the pool. It's nice and quiet there. Or I'll do yoga — meditation is good for the soul.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world right now, where would you go and why?

A: Ireland! They've got a really interesting history, and everyone I've ever met from Ireland was kick\$@*! Need I state the obvious and say the BEER?

Q: How long have you been in the military, and how do you feel about it?

A: I've been in the military for about five-and-a-half years. Personally, I love it. It's a guaranteed paycheck, and you don't have to worry about what you're going to wear in the morning.

Q: Prior to your mission here, have you ever worked in a Joint environment before? How would you describe each branch of service?

A: No, this is my first exposure to a JTF. I'd say the Army is dedicated, the Marines are proud, the Coast Guard is laid back, and the Navy is versatile. Oh, and I think everybody knows the Air Force rules!

Q: Where are you stationed in the States and how does it compare to here?

A: I'm stationed in Utah, so this is much better for me.

Q: If you could be a superhero, who would you be and why?

A: I would be Wonder Woman because she got to fly a really cool invisible plane.

Q: Any advice in closing?

A: Be true to yourself.

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Friday, July 12, 2002

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GTMO a No-Spin Zone for day

Bill O'Reilly of Fox News
pays base a friendly visit

By Spc. Michelle M. Scsepko
The Wire

Guantanamo Bay was a No-Spin Zone for a day Saturday as Bill O'Reilly, host of "The O'Reilly Factor" on Fox News Channel, brought his camera crew here to interview the military men and women who make Camp Delta's detention operation run.

O'Reilly, greeted at the plane by a phalanx of public-affairs officers and media escorts, said he had no problem with the security restrictions placed on him and other media for the protection of our troops. He wasn't here for a scoop, or a controversy - just a story.

"I'm not here to do a political story like Newsweek," said O'Reilly. "There's no controversy surrounding this mission to me. I agree with exactly what the Department of Defense is doing." That, he said, is because of the nature of this war.

"Obviously, it is harder for the media to cover a war like this because we have to be patriots as well as journalists. We can't break stories that might put peoples' lives in danger for the better of our own careers. It's not like Vietnam or the Gulf War, where we could hunt our own stories up. We just can't do that; we play it the way the Defense Department wants it to be played. The war is now in the country, and we've got to be very cognizant of that," he said.

O'Reilly and his supporting staff hit the ground running, moving purposefully as



Master Sgt. Warren Byrd, Media Support Center NCOIC, greets O'Reilly and his crew on the tarmac.

they exited their private jet to meet with their media escorts for the day.

"Mr. O'Reilly, we welcome you to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Following a brief overview of the itinerary and the ground-rules, we'll be ready to get this mission started," said Army Maj. F. Lee Reynolds, officer in charge of the Media Support Center. After receiving a warm welcome from the rest of a public affairs staff clearly

pleased to meet him, O'Reilly and his team were mission-ready and Windward bound. First stop, JTF-160 Headquarters.

Once there, Commanding Gen. Rick Bacchus walked out and introduced himself to O'Reilly and his staff as they approached. Introductions were brief, however, as the crew quickly departed and headed for their first location for taping: The Northeast Gate.

With a handful of Marine guards watch-

See O'Reilly, page 5

A look inside...



What the heck is this guy doing?
Page 3



24 hours in Camp America
Page 6



9/11 run for freedom and fun
Page 8

Next week's 15 minutes of fame could be you!

Chaplains' Corner

Discover God's Anatomy

God is a spirit, but He has made us in His image, and in the Bible He often uses the imagery of the human body to describe His actions. His eyes see, His mouth speaks, and His hands reach out to us.

Get to know God better by learning more about His anatomy:

Know that God wants you to get close to Him. Even though He is infinite, He uses the human body to help us better understand various aspects of His nature because He wants us to be able to relate to Him.

Decide to actively pursue God. Confess any

sins that are blocking your intimacy with Him, then make Him the top priority in your life.

Seek God's face by seriously studying the details of His nature. Don't pursue a shallow relationship with God out of mere curiosity. Be willing to look at His face by seeking a deep relationship in which He is full of compassion.

Know that God's nose delights in the fragrance of your worship. If you make bad decisions, He isn't above blowing His nose at you to help you learn to grow.

Submitted by Navy Lt. Sharon Bush, CHC, USNR

Provost Marshall's Office

The GTMO Motor Vehicle Code establishes the following: All POV's must be registered at the motor vehicle registration office (Tel. #3730), located next to the NAVBASE Police building. Documents required to register a POV are: (1) proof of ownership, (2) a valid driver's license, and (3) proof of liability insurance. The vehicle will be required to pass a safety and mechanical inspection that includes: lights, turn signals, tires, brakes, mirrors, windshield, horn, exhaust system and safety belts. Seats installed in the cargo area of a truck must have lap belts, be securely fastened to the chassis of the vehicle, and the truck must have a tailgate. REMEMBER that the same motor vehicle rules that apply in the states also apply here at GTMO. Violators will be stopped by NAVBASE Police and receive traffic citations.

HEADS UP! In the near future the JTF-160 Motor Maintenance section in coordination with NAVBASE Police will be conducting unannounced motor vehicle checkpoint stops for government vehicles. They will check that operators are performing basic operator maintenance on the vehicles and recording their actions in the vehicle maintenance logs.

BUCKLE UP AND DRIVE SAFELY

SJA Blotter

Notice of Article 15 Adjudication

A NCO was found guilty after a closed hearing conducted under Article 15, UCMJ, for two violations of Article 92. The non-judicial punishment authority found beyond a reasonable doubt that the NCO had exhibited public drunkenness and had visitors in her quarters after 2400. The NCO received extra duty for 7 days, restriction for 14 days and an oral reprimand.

Submitted by the JTF-160 SJA

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Commander's Corner

Safety Gram: JTF-160 Bicyclists

1. Bicycling is a fun way to achieve and maintain physical fitness. However, there are risks and dangers associated with this excellent form of cardiovascular exercise. Rough terrain, rainy weather, banana rats and iguanas are just a few conditions and obstacles that pose risk and danger.

2. Recently, while riding on a bike trail, a soldier hit a patch of rough terrain. He was thrown over the handlebars and landed on his head. His helmet cracked. The soldier suffered several chipped vertebrae in the neck. Treatment was three days in quarters and wearing a soft collar. The outcome could have been much worse if this soldier had not been wearing a helmet.

3. Helmets prevent and/or minimize injury from unanticipated risks and dangers. Helmets are a required safety measure when bicycle riding.

4. Safety concerns and incidents are reported to your chain of command and section J1 at ext. 5082.

RICK BACCUS

Brigadier General, USNG

Joint Task Force 160, Commander

Sports

Summer softball, v-ball get hotter

By Spc. Jose A. Martinez
The Wire

Cooper Field was busy Friday night as four teams battled it out for supremacy on the diamond in the softball season's second week.

To start the evening off, Team GTMO Lite squared off against a team from the 178th Military Police Company.

The game was neck-and-neck during the first three-innings with both teams tied at one run each.

In the top of the fourth, GTMO Lite came out swinging with a four-run hitting spree. During the fifth inning they increased their lead even more by bringing two more runs in.

The 178th Military Police Company tried to mount a comeback in the bottom of the fifth, but the one run they scored barely put a dent in GTMO Lite's lead.

In the sixth inning, Team GTMO Lite turned it up a notch and finished the 178th off with a 12-run rally to win the game by a final score of 19-2.

"We turned it up in the sixth inning by working together. This team played as one and that is what counts," said Rob Loop, team member from GTMO Lite, who scored two runs during the game.

GTMO Lite attributed their success to their long playing relationship - and some new powerhouse hitters recently added to



Photo By Army Spc. Jose A. Martinez
Army Staff Sgt. Lane Johnson from the 178th MP Co. doubles to deep right against GTMO Lite.

their line up.

"About 75 percent of our team has been playing together for the last six months. We know each others' strengths and weaknesses. Also, we added a few new players to the team this season. They add power to our lineup," said Navy Lt. Matt D. Lowe.

"This season we are a more competitive, stronger team," he said. "We are a relaxed on the field and have tons of fun playing the game," he said.

As a result of their triumph, GTMO Lite bumped their record up to 3-1.

But before the dust could settle on the field, the GTMO Bay

Reservists were behind the plate and ready to set it off. And that they did, scoring nine runs in the first inning.

"We are smoking right now, the team is doing great," said Navy Chief Antonio G. Parris who scored three runs and hit two doubles and a single for the GTMO Bay Reservists.

And what allowed the Reservists to take such a tremendous lead so early on? Some commented that it wasn't just the skill level demonstrated by the Reservists, but the lack of concentration on the field displayed by the 346th MP Co.

"If it wasn't for the 346th MP Co. helping us out tonight, making so many errors in the field, this could have been a close game," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Napier.

In the end, the Reservists lead was too great to overcome, winning the game 19 to 2, upping their record to 3-1.

"This win put us in a good position in the standings. We are holding our own in the league," said Napier.

Although everybody likes to win, Napier said he doesn't just play to win.

"It's not just about winning. It is good to see everyone come out and compete in this summer league," he said.

"We have a great time, whether we win or lose."

Softball Standings

Iguanas	4-0
Blacksheep	4-0
JTF-170	4-0
Hospital	3-0
GTMO Bay	3-1
GTMO Lite	3-1
Regulars	2-1
239 MP Co.	2-1
XO Staff	2-1
571 MP Co.	0-1
JTF-160	0-1
160 MP Bn.	1-2
PSU 307	1-2
Wildcats	1-3
178 MP Co.	1-3
2/142 INF. Co.	0-2
HQ JTF-160	0-2
114 MP Co. A	0-3
Hit Squad	0-3
114 MP Co. B	0-3
342 MP Co.	0-3

Volleyball Standings

Navsta	2-0
Chat Bout	2-0
JTF-160 Hosp.	2-0
Naval Hospital	1-1
JTF-160	0-1
Fire Dept.	0-1
571st MP Co.	0-1
178th MP Co.	0-2

Hospitals duel on the court

The JTF-160 volleyball team improved to 2-0 with a close-fought victory over Naval Hospital in Friday-night volleyball action at G.J. Denich Gym.

"It was a really close match and I thought we had a chance to win," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Frank P. Jama, a player for the Naval Hospital, after JTF-160's two-set victory. "We made careless mistakes that cost us the game."

"But this is just one match," he said. "I'm confident our team will recover."

The Naval Hospital team looked at the game as a learning experience, and is eager to show its skill in future matches.

"The JTF-160 was a better team on the court this evening, and I am looking forward to the rematch. I am sure it will be not only fun but highly competitive," said Jama.

JTF-160 said their win came from simple desire.

"We played hard and we wanted the win more tonight than the Naval Hospital," said Air Force Maj. Dawn Roberson.

The score from the first set was 15 to 10, and the score from the second set was 15 to 14.

"Naval Hospital fought hard and this was not an easy victory. Our strategy for the game was to have fun and keep the ball off the floor," said Roberson.



Photo by Spc. Jose A. Martinez
Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Dustin S. Ross from Naval Hospital goes aggressively for the volleyball as he spikes it on his opponents for a point.

GTMO remembers Sept. 11 victims

Story and photos by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin The Wire

To remember the victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy, GTMO Morale, Welfare and Recreation organized a 5K run for the Fourth of July on Thursday.

The race, which started at 6:30 a.m., drew a mixed crowd of GTMO residents. More than 350 people, including civilians and servicemembers from all of the military branches, came to show their support.

Before the race began, Paul McDonald, one of the organizers from MWR, said a few words of motivation to the crowd massed in front of the G.J. Denich Gym.

"Running brings people together," said McDonald. "We organized this run to remember the people who died on Sept. 11. We want to show that MWR and GTMO residents care."

He also said, "We want all of the servicemembers who are supporting the detainee operation here to feel close to home on this Independence Day."

The crowd applauded with thunderous satisfaction after hearing McDonald's words.

All of the participants, even the children in attendance with their parents, looked happy and eager to be part of an event that was held to remember the policemen, firemen and the other people who lost their lives in the 9/11 tragedy that shook all Americans and the whole world.

The run was mostly for fun - a chance for everyone to display their patriotism through their hearts and legs. There was a timekeeper, but the organizers didn't set formal rules for the race.

Almost all of the runners



GTMO civilians and servicemembers from all of the military branches came to show their support to the "911 Liberty 5K Race" in front of the G.J. Denich Gymnasium July 4. The purpose of the run was to remember the Sept. 11th victims and their families.

stayed in formation for the first mile before the slow runners spread out to continue at their own pace.

Although a first place winner was not officially declared, Spc. Chris Pearce from the 571st Military Police Company was the first one to complete the race.

"I was happy to run in this race and finish first," said Pearce.

The 571st MP Co. was filled with all-stars as Reggie Gokey finished second.

Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus, the commanding general of JTF-160, came to support the event and was among the first 10



Navy Chief Petty Officer Marcia Cunningham displays her hat.

people who crossed the finish line.

Most of the runners pushed hard to finish the race, but some people just walked the course with their children.

And since it was Independence Day, some of the runners proudly wore costumes displaying the colors of the U.S. flag. MWR gave out trophies to recognize the best costumes for the day.

In the adult category, first place went to Navy Chief Petty Officer Marcia Cunningham from JTF-160 headquarters; second place was Army Maj. Sandra Steinberg of the JTF-160 Joint Information Bureau.

Winning the youth category for best costume was Army Pvt. Ebony Blane.

At the end of the race, MWR gave out T-shirts to all of the participants.



Army Maj. Sandra Steinberg and Pvt. Ebony Blane display their trophies for best costumes.

This Week

Racquetball Tournament begins at 10AM this Saturday, July 13th; the Tennis Tournament begins at 10AM the following Saturday, July 20th. Sign up through your Chain of Command POC at G.J. Denich Gym. For more information call CPT Gormly at #5249.

Today, Friday, July 12th

Free Morning Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina
5:15PM to 6:15PM, Aerobics Classes
6:30PM to 7:30PM, Tae-Kwon Do Classes
All classes at Marine Hill Aerobics Room
7:00PM, 9-Pin No-Tap Tournament/Bowling Party, Marblehead Lanes
Free Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina

Saturday, July 13th

Free Morning Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina
7AM to 2PM, Dawn Fishing Trip, Main Liberty Recreation Center
Free Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina

Sunday, July 14th

Free Morning Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina
5PM, Spades Tournament
Free Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina

Monday, July 15th

Free Morning Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina
5:15PM to 6:15PM, Aerobics Classes
6:30PM to 7:30PM, Tae-Kwon Do Classes
All Classes at Marine Hill Aerobics Room
7PM, Free Movie, Downtown or Camp Buckley
Free Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina

Tuesday, July 16th

Free Morning Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina
5:15PM to 6:15PM, Yoga Ultimate Stretch Classes, G.J. Denich Gymnasium
6:30PM to 7:30PM, Tae-Kwon Do Classes, Marine Hill Aerobics Room
7PM, Cricket Classic X Dart Tournament, Main M.W.R. Liberty Recreation Center
Free Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina

Wednesday, July 17th

Free Morning Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina
All Day Scrabble Time, Main M.W.R. Liberty Center
5:15PM to 6:15PM, Aerobics Class, Marine Hill Gym
6:30PM to 7:30PM, Tae-Kwon Do Classes, Marine Hill Aerobics Room
Free Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina

Thursday, July 18th

Free Morning Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina
5:15PM to 6:15PM, Yoga Ultimate Stretch Classes
6:30PM to 7:30PM, Tae-Kwon Do Classes, Marine Hill Aerobics Room
7PM, Free Movie, Lyceum or 8PM Camp Bulkeley
Free Evening Lessons for Sailing, Kayaking, and Motor Boating, Pelican Pete's Marina

Profession of the Week

Broadcast Journalists

Compiled by Spc. Joseph A. Morris and Spc. Chris S. Pisano The Wire

The Army broadcast journalists of the mighty 361st Press Camp Headquarters, reservists from Fort Totten, N.Y., are tasked with telling servicemembers' stories here at GTMO.

They are in charge of disseminating command information by using a vast array of top quality digital cameras and digital video editing systems. With assignments ranging from filming morale videos to press conferences to field exercises, these broadcasters are versatile and willing to work hard to get your story out there. They do so by marketing their products internally and to U.S. and overseas television stations.

Whether the situation is gory or filled with glory, this group of highly-trained soldiers is ready to shoot your story.



Photo by Spc. Joseph A. Morris
Spc. Christian Farrell conducts an on-the-spot interview as part of a video that he is producing.

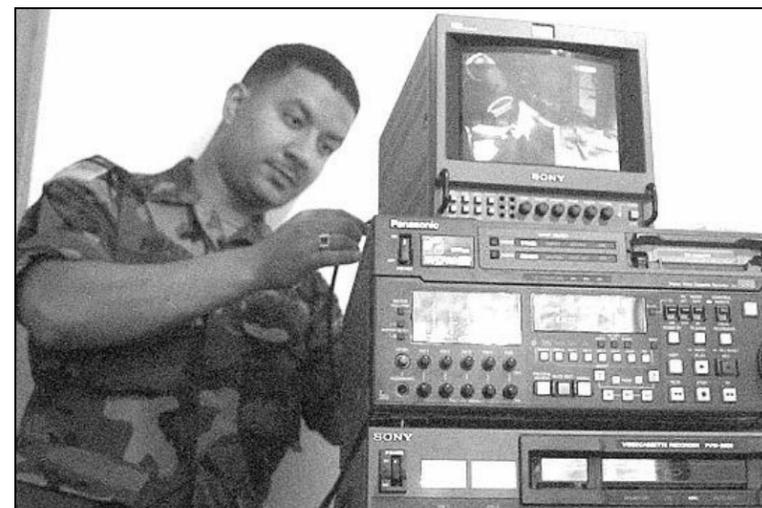


Photo by Spc. Joseph A. Morris
Spc. Hector Peralta hot-wires a digital video editing system before editing raw footage.



Spc. Christian Farrell
"I've had the great opportunity to tell my fellow soldiers' stories by having gone into the Army as a broadcaster. Any time I could go out covering your story I'll be all over it."



Spc. Paul Morando
"This job allows me to capture the essence and spirit of servicemembers through the lens of my camera. Everyone has a story to tell, and it's my job to make sure it's told."



Spc. Hector Peralta
"I get to go out in the field and cover things that people with other professions could only dream of. I've gotten down and dirty with generals and many other important people."



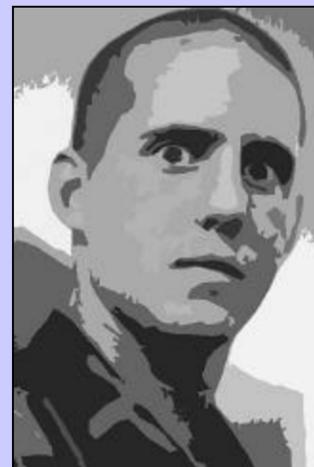
Spc. Ivy Hodges
"My job #@\$%ing rocks. I get to take an everyday occurrence and by putting it on video, make it immortal. My work is smooth like butter when I get on a roll."



Halfway down but still flying high

Flags across GTMO flew at half-mast Tuesday in honor of Air Force Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, leader of the famed all-black Tuskegee Airmen of World War II. Davis, who began his military career in the era of segregation and ended it as the Air Force's first black general, died Saturday after a long bout with Alzheimer's disease.

Photo by Spc. Chris S. Pisano



Frustrated Poetry Corner

by Spc. Joseph A. Morris

Unclear visions,
 Undecided decisions
 And hectic conditions
 Has a soldier on a mission,
 Wishin'
 For a better day
 Or an easier way.
 Unwilling to let
 My mind go astray,
 I'll remain strong.
 Keeping my mind on the goal,
 I'll refuse to do wrong
 This is my life,
 And this is where
 I belong.

Movie Schedule

- Friday, July 12**
 8 p.m. Mr. Deeds (PG-13)
 10 p.m. About a Boy (PG-13)
- Saturday, July 13**
 8 p.m. Lilo & Stitch (PG)
 10 p.m. Unfaithful (R)
- Sunday, July 14**
 8 p.m. Minority Report (PG-13)
- Monday, July 15**
 8 p.m. Bad Company (PG-13)
- Tuesday, July 16**
 8 p.m. About a Boy (PG-13)
- Wednesday, July 17**
 8 p.m. The New Guy (R)
- Thursday, July 18**
 8 p.m. Minority Report (PG-13)

Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 Sports channel
- 5 Chilled
- 9 Halite
- 13 Popular stadium
- 14 Scat!
- 15 "Hungry ___" (children's game)
- 16 Entrap
- 17 Relative
- 18 Concerning
- 19 Skin care product
- 21 Writer Bombeck
- 23 Compass point
- 24 Talk
- 25 Emigrant
- 29 Morse code "T"
- 30 Mantle
- 32 Bolted
- 33 Dead language
- 36 Priest
- 37 That (possessive)
- 38 Adam's garden
- 39 Mean

Down

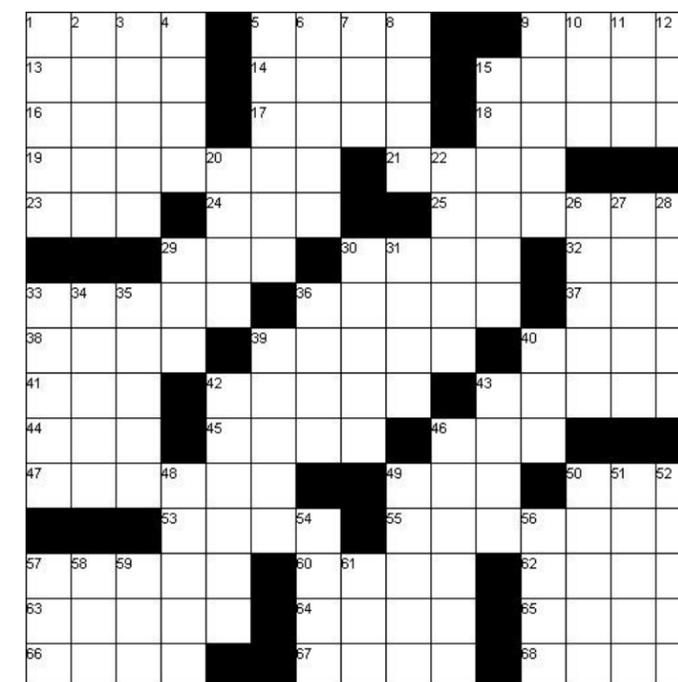
- 40 Type of cheese
- 41 Container
- 42 Aries the Ram
- 43 Heartbeat
- 44 "To the right!"
- 45 Join metal
- 46 Vase
- 47 Ban
- 49 Self
- 50 Visualize
- 53 ___ Major (Big Dipper)
- 55 Nut popular in cooking
- 57 Devil
- 60 Christ's gift bringer
- 62 Horse's walk
- 63 Records
- 64 Doing nothing
- 65 Diet
- 66 Prosperous
- 67 One who gets things done
- 68 Otherwise

Across

- 28 Turn out
- 29 Sound
- 30 Given a ticket
- 31 Deeds
- 33 Drop (2 wds.)
- 34 Bye
- 35 Lore
- 36 Famous ski resort
- 39 Groups of workers
- 40 Hamburger holder
- 42 Tokens of honor
- 43 Cotillion

Down

- 46 More unattractive
- 48 Midday meal
- 49 National emblem
- 50 Escargot
- 51 Blue-pencil's
- 52 Sugar-free brand
- 54 Among
- 56 Leer at
- 57 Popular president's initials
- 58 Caesar's three
- 59 Escudo
- 61 Hoopla



Answers to the June 28 puzzle



Down

- 1 Painter Richard
- 2 Plant
- 3 Serenity
- 4 Neck
- 5 Old Testament prophet
- 6 Lump
- 7 Billion years
- 8 Pamper
- 9 Moses' mountain
- 10 Gorilla
- 11 Licensed practical nurse
- 12 Kid
- 15 Gavel
- 20 Baseball's Nolan
- 22 Refund
- 26 Barbecue
- 27 Tempos

Man on the street

Compiled by Spc. Chris S. Pisano and Spc. Joseph A. Morris

This week's question:

Is there any place you would rather be than here?



Army Sgt. 1st Class Eric Walker, 418th Transportation Company

"Back on the block at Fort Hood, my home station. That's where I drink my juice and get my game on."



Navy Chief Petty Officer Craig Schlesinger, JTF-160 J3

"Out on the rough seas in an Aegis-Class Cruiser filled with missiles. Doing what a sailor should be doing."



Navy Seaman Alexis Brown, Naval Media Center (Radio Station)

"Back home for the birth of my brother and sister-in-law's baby girl. But, I'm stuck here doing my thing."



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class, Michael Laroche, PSU307

"Puerto Rico with my wife and kids. Maybe rent a house on the beach in SanJuan and just get away."



Army Spc. Alan LaMar, 418th Transportation Company

"Back home with the family. Taking the boy to baseball games and going out fishing works for me."

Detainees eat well, get healthy on Delta's carefully prepared Muslim meal plan

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

"The hotter the food, the better they like it." But Navy mess specialist Chief Petty Officer Colleen M. Schonhoff said preparing tasty, nutritious, spicy hot food for the Muslim detainees here at Camp Delta isn't her major concern.

"We have to make sure that the food is halal approved," said Schonhoff, overseer of the galleys at Guantanamo Bay that feed the detainees and U.S. service members. "Meats for the detainees have to be handled a certain way under Muslim requirements. When I order meat for military people, I just say I want 50 pounds of chicken, and it doesn't matter how that chicken has been handled as long as it's USDA approved. For the Muslims, I have to have a certificate from the company that says it's halal approved. I'm required to keep the certificate on file in case I'm ever questioned."



Photo by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin
Jermaine Turner, a contract cook at the Guantanamo Bay Seaside Galley, prepares a container of string beans for detainees at the Camp Delta detention center.

For instance, a certificate of Islamic slaughter must accompany every shipment of meat for the detainees. The Islamic Services of America must certify that the meat is halal beef that was handled according to all Islamic slaughter procedures and guidelines.

The 564 detainees at Camp Delta represent 39 countries, mostly where Islam is the main religion. Joint Task Force 160 is responsible for their security and care at the camp.

Muslims use two terms to describe food — halal and haram. Halal is an Arabic word, which means lawful or allowed, but it is sometimes translated as acceptable or not forbidden. Haram means the opposite — unlawful or prohibited. Halal foods are foods that are permitted for consumption under Islamic law. It is sinful for a Muslim to consume haram foods.

Haram foods include pig, dog, donkey, and animals having fangs, such as monkeys, cats and lions. It also includes amphibians such as frogs, crocodiles and turtles. Alcohol, harmful substances, poisonous and intoxicating plants or drinks are also haram.

"You have to have halal certificates on chicken and beef, but there are no strict requirements on fish," she noted.

"My galley prepares two meals a day for the detainees — breakfast and the evening meal," she noted. "They eat a vegetarian meal ready to eat, or MRE, for lunch. The menu that the dietician prepared for us is about 2,300 calories. Add the MRE and they get about 2,600 calories per day.

"I like to believe they're eating a lot better here than they were wherever they were before they got here," she said. "We take pretty good care of them."

Bob Barkley, the building

manager of the Seaside Galley, where food is prepared for the detainees, said naval hospital dietician Lt. Donna M. Sporrer created the menu.

"We were furnished with basic recipes that give general guidelines as to how to season the food," Barkley said. "We just follow those and they seem to be happy."

"My main goal was to make sure they got all the nutrition requirements they need — proteins, vitamins, minerals and carbohydrates," Sporrer said. "I had to look at the budget, too, so it's primarily a vegetarian diet, rice, beans, fruit and vegetables. They're getting almost everything they need from two meals a day."

A typical breakfast consists of pita bread, rice, curried eggs and peas, milk and fresh fruit, or hash browns, pita bread, a boiled egg, milk and fresh fruit. A typical dinner consists of rice, pita bread,

meat and vegetable curry, milk, fresh fruit and margarine. A variant is rice, baked fish, stew sauce, spinach, orange or orange juice, milk and bread and margarine. JTF-160 provides the lunch vegetarian MREs.

"We serve them two special meals per year," Schonhoff noted. "For example, we served them lamb stew, rice, loaf bread, baklava and tea at the end of Ramadan in April. The Joint Task Force tells us when to serve the special meals."

Sporrer said before the detainees started arriving last January, she gave Schonhoff guidelines about acceptable ingredients for Muslim diets. She also provided recipes that follow halal guidelines. The previous Muslim chaplain helped by giving Sporrer a Muslim cookbook.

She said purchasing meat for the detainees is much like buying kosher meat, "except you're buy-



Photo by Rudi Williams
Navy mess specialist Chief Petty Officer Colleen M. Schonhoff said the detainees at the Camp Delta detention center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, "are getting a variety of food."

ing halal-approved meat that's blessed by a Muslim chaplain before it's slaughtered."

Schonhoff said the cooks didn't have to have any special training to prepare food for the detainees. They just follow the recipes and use different spices to season the food.

"In their culture, they like food a little more spicy than we traditionally cook for our troops," Schonhoff said about the detainees. "We usually put hot sauce on the table and let the troops add their own. For the detainee meals, we use curries and a couple of other spices we bought for them."

Schonhoff said when she arrived at GTMO about three years ago, it was a quiet little duty station with one galley.

That ended with the detainees' arrival.

Before the enclosed Seaside Galley opened on June 14, the only galley, other than the one in the hospital facility, was the Quick Hall Galley in the Marine section of the base.

"Before the big influx of detainees and troops, we fed about 300 meals a day," she noted. "Then we went to more than 3,800 meals a day and were still doing it out of Quick Hall. We shipped containers of food all around the base."

O'Reilly, from page 1

ing from their posts, Baccus and O'Reilly strolled for the cameras along what has been GTMO's defining feature for decades: the chain-link, concertina wire-topped fence line dividing the U.S. military's Cuba and Fidel Castro's.

After taping O'Reilly's interview with the commanding general and collecting some background footage of the area, the entourage proceeded to Guantanamo Bay's new hotspot of media attention and occasional political controversy: Camp Delta and Camp America, where the detention operation is located.

That operation — the soldiers who run it and the detainees who are its mission — was what brought O'Reilly to GTMO.

"I am here to do a day-in-the-life-of story on the detainees," said O'Reilly. "The American people are curious about what the detainees do all day long, and that's why I'm here. I want to find out what their routine is, and what their day is like."

During his visit to Camp America, O'Reilly made a stop for chow at the Seaside Galley, which afforded him the opportunity to speak with some of the men and women who make the detention facility run. Living up

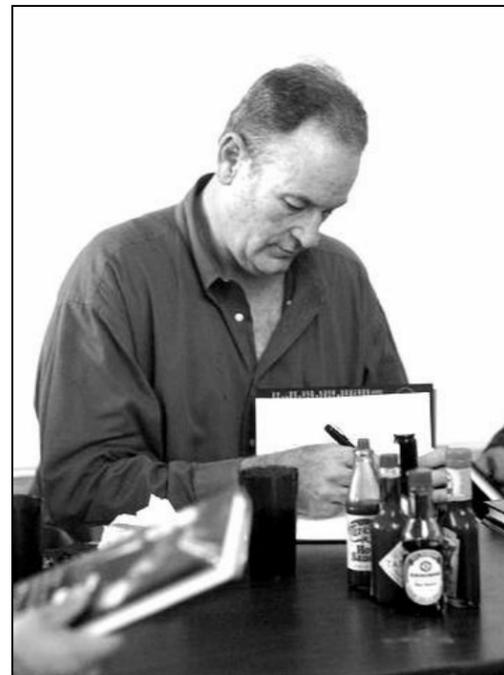


Photo by Spc. Chris S. Pisano
While at the Seaside Galley at Camp America, Bill O'Reilly takes the time out to sign a few books for admirers.

to his image as a "working class hero," O'Reilly could have been one of the troops, chowing down and chatting amiably with hard-working GIs.

"I'm very happy to be here. I think everybody knows that 90 percent of the country is behind the military, the War on Terror, and what these troops are doing here," said O'Reilly. "There's an enormous amount of people in America that support this cause, and you usually never get this kind of support for a war. The troops should know that we're all behind them and want them to stay safe."

After signing a few copies of his book, "The No-Spin Zone," and taking pictures with eager soldiers, O'Reilly selected two sergeants to come back to Headquarters with him to be interviewed along with the Commanding General. The interviewees said O'Reilly focused on many different aspects of working with the detainees, as well as their day-to-day routine.

"He asked me about the female perspective of day to day work with the detainees," said Sgt. Gabriel E. Graham.

"He was interested in finding out what happens with the detainees when they misbehave or if they are caught with contraband," said Sgt. Bernard Buehler. "He also wanted to know if I ever feel sympathetic toward them."

After spending a day in GTMO with the opportunity to converse with the Commanding General and troops, O'Reilly offered his own opinion on the mission here.

"It looks to me like everything is very well organized and that there isn't anything left to uncertainty. This is a very methodical operation," he said.

"These people put themselves in this

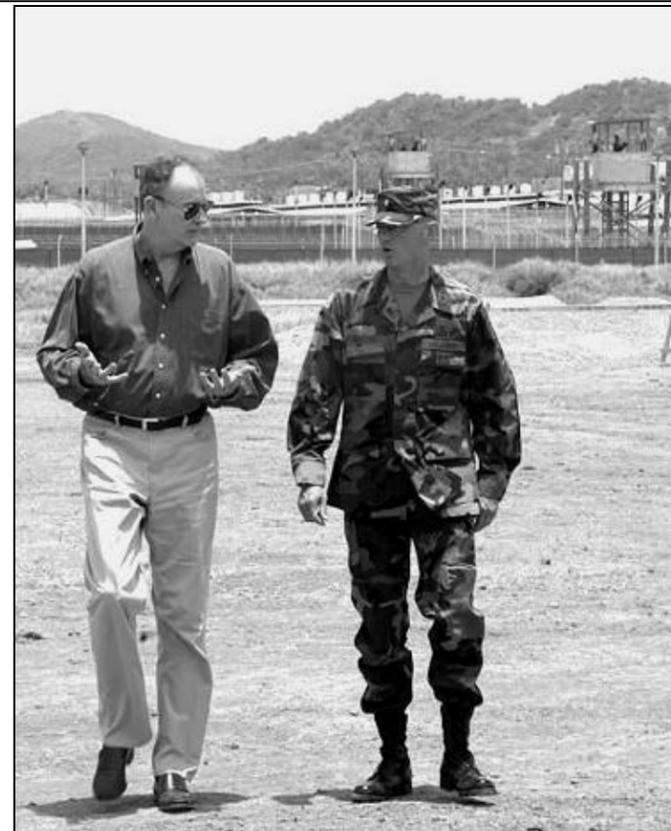


Photo by Spc. Chris S. Pisano
Bill O'Reilly strolls around the perimeter of Camp Delta while conducting a portion of his interview with Commanding Gen. Rick Baccus.

position, and they're being treated humanely. Basically, that's all we owe them at this point. We're at war, and if you're going to mess with our country you're going to have to pay the price."

After sitting in the hot seat with O'Reilly, Baccus was satisfied with the visit.

"I thought the interview with O'Reilly was very positive, he really sounded like he supported the mission and what we're doing down here," said Baccus. "This coverage will clearly tell the families exactly what kind of mission we're doing and how important what we're doing is. I think it will give Americans a better picture in terms of how serious a mission this is and certainly that all the servicemembers take the mission very seriously," he said.

O'Reilly expected that media like him would be coming back to GTMO — and covering the war on terror — for a long time to come.

"With the way I see the War on Terror is being handled here, a year from now it will still be front-page news," he said. "Except with a lot less

terrorists around — that includes Saddam Hussein."

As for his visit, O'Reilly had but one disappointment.

"I was hoping to see Fidel, but I guess he's not in today," said O'Reilly. "Although I did see an iguana. He was probably a communist."

The segment will air at 8 p.m. July 15 and 16 in the states, and is scheduled to be on AFN News (Ch. 97) on July 16 and 17 at 2 a.m.



Photo by Spc. Chris S. Pisano
O'Reilly may have had enough of pictures as he gets ready to feast on some Seaside Galley chow.

Looking for (Camp) America

To find the soul of the SEAhut suburb that never sleeps, this military journalist didn't either

Story and photos by
Spc. Frank N. Pellegrini
The Wire

I arrive at the main gate just after midnight. It is now July 4, 2002. In honor of the day and all it means to America's enemies, the entire base will be bumped up a letter to Force Protection Condition Charlie, and in honor of that I've come to spend 24 straight hours at Camp America, the suburb of the place that makes GTMO a target this year.

This is the camp where the MPs and infantrymen who are this detention operation hang their Kevlars. The place where there can be no holidays.

I've come to look for Camp America on the Fourth of July, and I'm not leaving until it's over.

0005 hrs. Spc. Jose A. Orozco and Sgt. Juan Villarreal, Texas National Guard infantrymen attached here to B Company, 2/142, are on the graveyard shift, manning the front gate in their reflective gear. Orozco checks my ID and offers a few words on what it's like to start this potentially eventful Independence Day on the job. "I think about it a little bit," Orozco says. "I wish I was out spending some time with my friends. But we've got a job to do. We're keeping an eye out so that everybody else is OK."

I make the turn down the main road, passing the reason Orozco and Villarreal are up tonight: Camp Delta. A team of guards stand silently at the gate. The place is quiet but for the hum of the generators. I drive on past, into America, and park for the day.

0035 hrs. On the road in

front of the command hooches, Pfc. Karrie Sutton of the 342nd MP company and Sgt. Isaac Comer of the 342nd MP Co. are walking back from the bus stop after taking in the July 3 fireworks show at the Tiki Bar. Sutton has the day off, but Comer is due at Delta at 1400. A police officer in civilian life, he is not fazed. "I've done some sort of duty on the Fourth for as long as I can remember," he says. "It's good to see other people out having a good time and make sure they're all right."

0215 hrs. The camp is completely quiet, so I go for a walk and find Pfc. Mickel Garrigus, Pfc. Keith West and Pfc. Michael Rowe, swing-shifters with the 571st MP company, in the laundry room, playing Madden 2002 on an X-Box while the washers run.

They have all drawn the Fourth off, and are none too pleased that the celebrations were all the night before, while they were at work. Now, West grumbles, "We're off and there's nothing to do." Just the usual: "Go into town. Go swimming. Call my wife."

West and I linger outside, smoking, talking about here and home. His wife is expecting; he's worried about getting leave approved by the command. He's worried about the last

time he called; she was emotional and he — well, he was here. E-mail can be easier, we agree. After a while, we shake hands and part ways in the dark.

0515 hrs. Members of the 571st form up outside the Seaside Galley for the 9/11 5K Liberty Run. It is late in the evening for this crew, and the starting line at the G.J. Denich Gym is itself a long bus ride away. But there is the patriotic



Staff Sgt. John C. Worthington, a platoon sergeant with the 2/142 infantry, passes underneath Camp America's flag in full FPCON Charlie battle gear.

element, and the unit's commander, Capt. Krista Watts, has offered participants the following night off from PT. Turnout is good.

0530 hrs. The runners have boarded their bus and left; I am alone on the wooden footbridge that in a few more hours will be the point at which soldiers will be required to don — or carry — their full battle gear. I lean over the edge. A procession of shambling banana rats — at least a dozen, maybe more — wend their way through the dry

gully below, coming one by one out of the dark into the glare of a lone spotlight at the corner of the fence-line. For some reason I think of the mountain trek from "Lord of the Rings."

0620 hrs.

The sunrise is nearly complete now as some members of the 114th MP Co. trickle home from work. I ask Sgt. Tarance Spann where he's headed. "To bed," he says. Spc. Brian C. Carroll allows some anxiety about the coming day. "One of our soldiers said he had a bad feeling," he said. "Said the last time he had a bad feeling he got into a car wreck." He shrugs, and heads off to breakfast.

0645 hrs. I catch Staff Sgt. Robert W. Reese, with the 2/142 infantry, in some post-



Spc. Barry Barrett (l), Spc. Tim Connelly (c) and Spc. Clay Leon (r) hump gear and show spirit on their way out of camp.

J6 communicates with nothing but success

By Spc. Joseph A. Morris
The Wire

Without communication amongst people, societies could not exist. And without communication among servicemembers — particularly those in a joint service environment — missions cannot succeed. Luckily, there is one team that forms the driving force of military communications at Guantanamo Bay — the team known as J6.

The mission of the J6 is to ensure 100% availability of secure and non-secure voice and data communications systems. They are responsible for all of our communications needs — networking and operating computer systems, installing telephones, maintaining radios and cell phones, and keeping up communications security (COMSEC) for Joint Task Force 160.

In addition, they maintain the JTF-160 web page, manage the help desk, and take care of any problems in their area of operation.

Ultimately, their goal is to ensure the commanding general can perform all parts of the vast spectrum of his mission — from intelligence and operations to Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities.

"People take communications for granted. It's not just one-on-one or face-to-face," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Joel W. Culbreth, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the J6 help desk. "There is a whole lot more to it."

"We monitor all network traffic," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Michael C. Forde,

the J6 superintendent and the top ranking enlisted Air Force member here on base. "We have established a joint operations center (JOC) for command and control capabilities to allow us to improve force protection, security awareness and early threat warning."

With personnel standing watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week, waiting for problems to arise — problems that range from network failures to telephone outages to communication security issues to loss of cable television — J6 has the resources to get the job done.

As time passes on, however, communications operations continue to expand and are constantly being improved. This is a constant challenge for the people of J6, who must run parallel with modern advances in the communications realm. "We are constantly bringing up our systems to state of the art," said Forde.

"We are continually learning updated procedures of command and control from representatives of the Global Command and Control Center," said Air Force Capt. Roberta L. Nicholson, Deputy J6.

However, according to Air Force Lt. Col. Teresa M. McGonagill, one of the biggest challenges facing the J6 is keeping good communications open on what their customers need. That entails finding out what the user needs, for what purpose, and at what time. "If I know those things, I can work to support them," she said.

But the one facet of J6's job that probably strikes a chord with the most people here at GTMO is the computer. Now more than ever, people are using computers and the Internet to accomplish their mission. This can be accomplished only if the computers work properly, however, and J6 is here to ensure that they do.

"We're fixing computers old and new," said Culbreth. "This is a very important job for us. In this day and age, computers and Internet access have become necessities for the successful completion of a mission."

But maintaining communications isn't the only job that J6 has. They also play a critical role in keeping the off-duty morale of every servicemember here as high as the professional standards that they set on the job.

"Being able to keep in touch with family and friends back home via e-mail keeps a troop's morale high," said Culbreth. "So when there is a problem with the Internet, it is very important for us to jump right on it."

And while members of J6 work hard to make sure the morale of the troops is strong,



Senior Airman Steven J. Bradford, system administrator, troubleshoots a computer tower for a problem that has been bedazzling him for days.

they have done likewise for themselves by creating an enjoyable working environment conducive to teamwork.

"We have members from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy working together here on this team," said McGonagill. "But I don't see service, I see capabilities. J6 has been putting out quality work. Everyone has pulled together well and communication between the different services has been great."

"Working with all the different branches is challenging but also valuable," said Lance Cpl. Jason W. Vest, J6 phone representative. "You can learn from others while you teach them what you know."

"We have super guys who can come together from different bases with different backgrounds to form super teams in this field," said Forde. "We had members from six different units of the Air Force Air National Guard come together here at GTMO to lay down 15 miles of fiber-optic cables throughout the whole base in around two short months."

With motivation to spare, the members of J6 are looking to the future of JTF and looking forward to more milestones in their history of communications achievements for the military.

"When I am finished here, I want to have a sound communication infrastructure to take JTF not only through tomorrow but two years from now including data, local networks, radio communication, secured telephone communication and sound frequency management," said McGonagill.

But in the end, the talented members of J6 are crystal clear on what they must do and how they must do it.

"Things have really come together here, but this mission is far from being completed," said Forde. "There is still a lot to get done, and I want everyone out there to know that J6 will always take care of all of your communications needs."



Spc. Paula A. Zapata, system administrator, delicately toils away at wires on an Internet server.

24-hour Fourth, from page 7

racks in Camp Delta, and get a view of the facility from one of the guard towers. I see nothing, of course, and remember less.

2000 hrs. With FP CON Charlie now 12 hours old, I head out on another infantry patrol, this time for a "mounted" run in a humvee tricked out with a .50-cal. gun turret, with Staff Sgt. Earl W. Diggs, Jr., and Cpl. Jose A. Rivas, Jr. We climb in and rumble off into the hills. Rivas, like a drunk on a limo ride, is sticking through the roof on the .50-cal; all I can see are his legs.

2045 hrs. "All right, boys, this is where the fun starts," yells Diggs over the roar of the motor. The patrol has come to the place known locally as "Lover's Lane" (and some less delicate names), and Diggs and Rivas are expecting to catch some misbehaving soldiers. They "go tactical" - lights off, night-vision goggles on - and creep up on the isolated shacks. Diggs gets out and makes the rounds, throwing each door open while Rivas swivels the turret. "Nothing there," Diggs says, sounding disappointed. "But someone lit out of here without their shoes."

At the next checkpoint, the pair turns serious: the guards there have spotted an unidentified light out on the water, visible only with their goggles. Diggs calls it in. I never learn what, if anything, comes of the incident.

A half-hour later we are on a hill overlooking the brightly glowing center of it all: Camp Delta. Diggs and Rivas check in with the guard post; I wander out for a better view. From the edge Delta looks like the moon excavation site from "2001: A Space Odyssey." And it sounds

— it sounds like there's some trouble down there. I hear metallic banging, chanting, yelling.

Now, aside from a half-hour nap between 7:30 and 8 this morning, I've been up since midnight, after just two hours' sleep Wednesday evening. I'm sure the hills have me hearing it wrong - anything serious would obviously be on the radios - but when I rejoin the others I can't resist a report.

We drive down to check it out — they're clearly humoring me — and of course all is well. The guards are on guard, the detainees are presumably in bed, and if there was ever any ruckus it's quiet again. Diggs and Rivas resist giving me a hard time until later, when we swing around to Camp Buckley and hear the sound again. "You know what you heard?" says Rivas. "The movie."

I try to laugh it off — I'm certainly in no condition to argue. It is now 9:35 p.m.; less than three hours to go. I am now tired in that desperate, lost-in-the-desert-with-no-Camelback kind of way. Anxious to talk to some more MPs before midnight, I have Diggs and Rivas drop me off at their 10 p.m. checkpoint stop. After all, they will be at it for another 10 hours, and hey — I'm on a timetable here.

Later, I find out the movie was "Lilo and Stitch." Interesting.

2145 hrs. Idle until the next group of MPs comes up the road from Delta, I wander over to the guard post at the far edge of camp, where the road falls off toward the beach. Spc. Ruben Cantu and Staff Sgt. Billy Bryley, two more of the 2/142 infantrymen I have been running across all day and all night, are manning the post until midnight, at which point they have eight hours to rest before rising again to man another post or patrol or radio somewhere else in or around the camp. Eight on, eight off. Infantry hours.



Sgt. Robert S. Jones, 114th MP Co., in a 9/11 fundraiser T-shirt from home in Mississippi.

The pair does admit to being "a little hyped up" by the move to Charlie, the holiday and all the media hand-wringing back in the U.S.

"We're ready for it if it comes," says Cantu. But so far, nothing, not even the usual trickle of evening beach traffic. I am the first person to come by in a long while.

2230 hrs. Members of the 342nd MPs are heading back from Delta. They are kind enough to gather at the bench where I am slumped.

Pfc. Rhonda Reed, who had the day off but is meeting her friends, is disappointed in her fellow Americans. "I played Lee Greenwood ('Proud to Be an American') about 20 times this morning to get everybody in the mood. But nobody was into it because they had to work." I tell her I'm shocked.

Pfc. Johnathan Sweatfield, just off his shift, gives me an informal rundown of the last shift of this Fourth.

"No explosions. No chemical attack. Nobody tried to sneak any weapons past the gate," he says. "And we had more ice than we needed."

In other words, as good as it gets here. I hear someone call out, "Is it 24 hours yet?" I focus, with effort, and it is West, back from town. No, I tell him. Not quite yet.

2300 hrs. I head back to Seaside Galley for night-shift chow, and scan the mostly-

empty benches for a familiar face. I spot Sgt. Jaramillo, from the morning's patrol. He is back on out front at midnight. "That's why you didn't see me at dinner," he says. "I was sleeping, and airing out my tootsies."

0015 hrs. By my watch, it is over. Terror has not struck. I can leave at any time. Spc. Paul



At sunset, our flag was still there.

Morando, a broadcaster with my unit who has been keeping nearly my hours following the 2/142, is waiting on me for a ride back home. But now I do not want to go, not yet. So I wander over to the newly-built "smoke shack" and philosophize a while with Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin S. Hewitt, with the 114th MPs.

"Shifts come on, shifts come off, 24 hours a day, always the same. A place like this runs itself." He sighs. "It's the first Fourth of July that was very uneventful for me."

"But today, I guess that was good."

0040 hrs. At the front gate, we stop, say goodnight to the recurring Sgt. Jaramillo, and drive out.

It's over. I've lived a day at Camp America that perhaps no one here has before. I've met people — in some cases, several times — who might go months without meeting each other. I've seen the whole, the sum of the parts. But I guess I'll never really know what it's like to be one, day in and day out.

Down the road, we come to a Navy checkpoint, and show ID. "Getting off shift?" the guard asks me.

I think it over. "Sort of."

chow dental hygiene at one of the camp's stand-alone banks of sinks and mirrors. He is on at 8:00, and counting last week's rehearsal, this is the second off-



Even the guard stations were decked out for the day.

day FP CON Charlie has ruined for him. "I strongly believe nothing will happen," he says. "But you have to be vigilant. Someone has to do it."

0800 hrs. It's Charlie time. The camp officially moves into its heightened state of awareness — full battle gear five minutes away if you're in the camp, on your person if you want to leave.

I hook up with some soldiers who, if terror is to strike, will see it coming first: more members of the 2/142 infantry. These are the soldiers who guard the guards, and now, three of them - Sgt. Jose Jaramillo, Spc. John Martinez and Spc. Juan Reyes - are off on a "dismounted" counter-reconnaissance patrol around the camp, which in layman's terms is a very long walk in some very hot sun. I hope they do not have to carry me back.

Along for the patrol is the home battalion's XO, Army Maj. Robert Wait. "Nothing beats having a guy walk the ground as opposed to looking at it from a mile or two away," he tells me. "It's tougher on the troops. But I think we get increased security this way."

These are really the only soldiers here whose schedules change when the camp tenses up; are any of Wait's men feeling the pressure?

"This is the real deal — this

is the Super Bowl," he allows. "There's a much greater level of personal awareness. But we're not fearful because of the plan we have and the measures we've put in place. If something does happen, it's a by-the-numbers drill. We can execute it just like that."

1000 hrs. Maj. Wait and I "peel off" and head back to camp. Jaramillo, Martinez and Reyes keep going. They will be out here another six hours.

1130 hrs. There is a special Fourth of July lunch at the Seaside Galley: BBQ chicken and fried chicken, burgers, franks, and some very decent baked beans. The hall is decked with American flags and red-white-and-blue bunting. Battle gear is everywhere.

On the way out, I hear somebody exclaiming what a wonderful Fourth of July it is to be in the military. And 1st Sgt. Larry Wilbanks, of the 178th MPs, is indeed sincere - his daughter is expecting a boy this very day. "I've been doing this for 31 years, so it's not the first Fourth I've missed and it won't be the last," he says. "But I'm here - I guess so my grandson won't have to be."

1405 hrs. I drop in on Camp America's administrators, the 160th MP Battalion. Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony B. Clayton gives me his usual hearty hello.

"The 4th of July is just like any other work day around here," he says. "We're all six on, off one - if it was your off day today, you're off. If you're working, you're still working."



Between the SEAhuts and Seaside Galley was checkpoint Charlie.

Such, he says, is the nature of the Camp America beast. It's just like any hospital or police station or prison in the outside world - here, the detainees are in Delta no matter what the calendar says. "I've worked shift work for a lot of years," Clayton says. "Of course, even if I worked on the Fourth I could always get off at some point and catch some festivities. Now, there are none left."

As for FP CON Charlie, Clayton says that nothing's hit the radar screen yet. "Just a lot of soldiers walking around with a lot of gear."

1430 hrs. One of those soldiers, Spc. C. Scott Belgard



Sgt. Jose Jaramillo and Maj. Robert Wait talk tactics on the trail.

with the 239th MPs, is off work and hoofing it up the hill back to the hooches, rucksack on his chest. His face is streaked with sweat, but he stops to talk about celebrating this Fourth.

"Every day seems like the same day here - today, we've got extra things to carry," he says. "It's good we're taking extra precautions, I guess. But it's a heck of a load."

1550 hrs. More heavy lifting in the afternoon heat: Staff Sgt. Matthew Kauffman, with the 160th, is directing the forklifting and installation of a vintage-looking 5K generator for some additional backup power. "If there's an emergency, we'll have power to run the emergency broadcast system." I ponder that for a minute, and move on.

1635 hrs. I bump into my old laundry-room buddy West, walking away from the phone bank outside hooch A4106 after trying unsuccessfully to get

through to his wife. He has a new plan for the rest of the day. "I'm going straight to the CBQ," he says. "TV, movies, pool, ping pong - everything's free. It's all air-conditioned. And it's not here."

1700 hrs. Back at the 160th offices, their commander, Lt. Col. Izzy Rommes, is knocking off at 5 sharp for a change and headed home to Windward Loop after 10 hours on the job.

On the way out, he tells me that this terror-shadowed Fourth has not been uneventful everywhere. "There was a shooter at the El Al terminal at LAX. Palestinians, I guess. Just underscores the need to do what

we're doing here."

1715 hrs. I head over to Seaside Galley for my third chow of the day. Crossing the footbridge, I realize I am not carrying my Charlie gear. I consider cheating, but there is a beefy sergeant-looking type, bent under his own Charlie load, eyeing me through mirrored shades. I sigh, and turn back for my duffel.

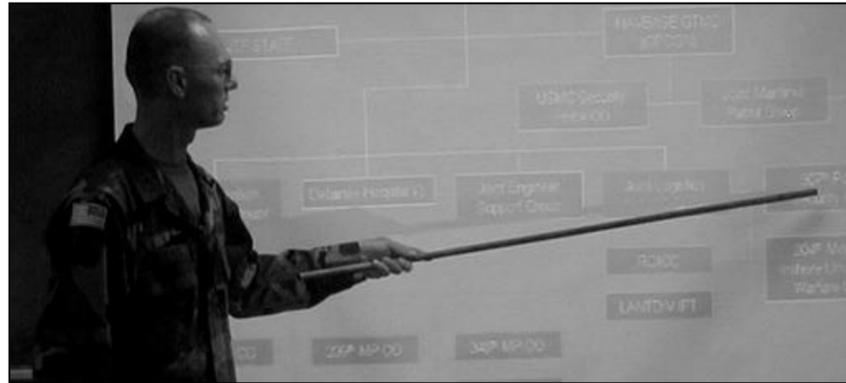
1800 hrs. I head over to the "Bear Store" and the big-screen TV to check out the FBI press conference about the shooting. Inside, I find about a dozen soldiers watching Nicolas Cage and Angelina Jolie make out in "Gone in 60 Seconds." Next door, the Internet room is filled, with two waiting. Only e-mail browsers are visible. Which is fine - I am too tired for news anyway.

1915 hrs. I go on a tour of the Quick Response Force bar-

See 24-hour Fourth, page 10



Staff Sgt. Valde Gonzalez, 2/142 infantry, tucks into dinner at Seaside Galley.



JTF-160 Commanding Gen. Rick Baccus gives an overview of JTF-160 to his distinguished guests. Photo by Army Sgt. Michelle M. Pessoa



Spc. Paula Zapata, the youngest member of the 43rd MPBDE, proudly holds in her hand a coin she received Tuesday from the adjutant general of R.I. National Guard. Photo by Spc. Jose A. Martinez



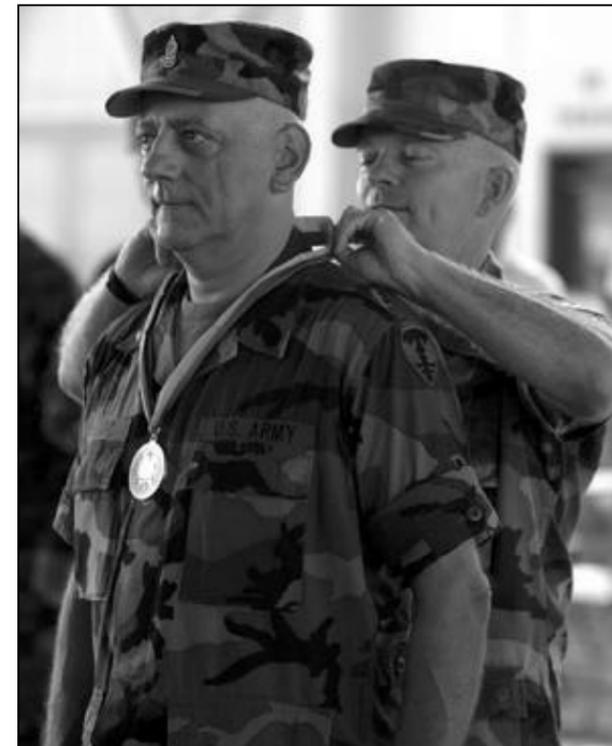
Army Maj. Gen. Reginald Centracchio, commanding general of the R.I. National Guard, speaks to his troops at the MacCalla Hangar Tuesday. Centracchio, who is visiting GTMO for the first time, said he came here to bring moral support to the R.I. soldiers deployed here and wants to bring back good news for their families. Photo by Spc. Jose A. Martinez



The Rhode Island delegation walks to the Leeward Airfield Hangar after getting off a C-130 aircraft Monday afternoon. The distinguished visitors, who came here to support the soldiers of the 43rd Military Police Brigade, are escorted by the members of the JTF-160 public affairs office. Photo by Army Sgt. Michelle M. Pessoa



Marine Maj. Scott Packard points out the location of the Battle of Cuzco, a famous GTMO battlefield near the Marine Hill Cemetery. Photo by Spc. Jose Martinez



Command Sgt. Maj. Funaro receives a medal from Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan of R.I. National Guard at the Tuesday presentation at MacCalla Hill. Photo by Spc. Jose Martinez

Rhode Island VIPs at GTMO

Compiled by Army Sgt. Michelle M. Pessoa, Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin, Spc. Chris S. Pisano, Spc. Joseph A. Morris and Spc. Jose A. Martinez

A delegation made up of VIPs and civilian media from Rhode Island, the home state of JTF-160 Commanding Gen. Rick Baccus, came to GTMO Monday to visit the soldiers of the 43rd Military Police Brigade currently serving JTF-160.

The dignitaries included Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, Chief Justice Frank Williams of the R.I. Supreme Court, and Commanding Maj. Gen. Reginald Centracchio and Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan of the Rhode Island National Guard.

Baccus and his staff met the visitors Monday at Leeward Airfield and briefed them on JTF-160's mission. Tuesday, a group of JTF-160's Rhode Islanders convened at the MacCalla Hangar to meet their distinguished visitors. Fogarty presented a gubernatorial citation to Baccus, and Centracchio gave out Army medals and coins to the soldiers.

Then the DVs and the media had a chance to see the sights of GTMO, taking a guided tour of Camp X-ray, Camp Delta, Camp America, the Northeast Gate and GTMO's historic sites that ended with a reception at Rick's. After expressing their gratitude for their fellow Rhode Islanders' service here, the delegation returned home Wednesday morning.



Lt. Gov. Fogarty presents a gubernatorial citation to Gen. Baccus Tuesday. Photo by Spc. Jose Martinez



The R.I. visitors together with servicemembers from JTF-160 walk toward GTMO Northeast Gate Tuesday during the special tour. Photo by Army Pfc. Jean-Carl Bertin